

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
DHA-05 BIB-01 EB-08 NEA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /098 W
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R 261533Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3490
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROM
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CSCE, CZ
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77 - LOOKING TOWARD FALL BELGRADE MEETING

1. SUMMARY: CHARTER 77 ACTIVITY CONTINUES, ALTHOUGH IN LOW KEY,
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AS DOES REGIME HARASSMENT OF SIGNERS. SOME EVIDENCE SUGGESTS
CHARTER MOVEMENT IS FRAGMENTED, BUT WE NEVERTHELESS EXPECT SOME
MOVE CONNECTED WITH START OF BELGRADE II. END SUMMARY.

2. SWISS AMBASSADOR JAEGGI GAVE CHARGE AUGUST 25 RECENT INFORMATION
CONCERNING CHARTER 77 PASSED TO HIM BY HIS FORMER NEIGHBOR,
PLAYWRIGHT PAVEL KOHOUT. JAEGGI SAID A MEETING HAD TAKEN

PLACE THIS WEEK WITH NO POLICE HARASSMENT WHATEVER AT RESIDENCE OF VACLAV HAVEL, " WHO HAS BECOME THE PRINCIPAL LEADER OF THE CHARTER MOVEMENT AT THIS TIME." APPROXIMATELY 20 CHARTER SIGNATORIES MET WITH HAVEL TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FIVE NEW OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN OF THE MOVEMENT, IN THE EVENT THAT CURRENT RECOGNIZED SPOKESMEN REMAIN UNDER HOUSE ARREST OR ARE OTHERWISE BLOCKED FROM PURSUING AN ACTIVIST ROLE. THE MEETING ALSO REPORTEDLY OCCASIONED A DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE NEW STEPS TO BE TAKEN WITH AN EYE ON THE BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP TALKS THIS FALL.

3. JAEGGI SAID ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN PLANS FOR THE TRIAL OF HAVEL, ORNEST, LEDERER, AND PAVLICEK REMAIN COMPLETELY UP IN THE AIR AT PRESENT, ACCORDING TOKOHOUT. KOHOUT HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO RECENT HARASSMENT AT HIS COUNTRY HOME, WHERE HIS GARAGE HAS BEEN PAINTED OVER WITH SWASTIKAS AND SIGNS CALLING HIM A NAZI. HE ALSO HAS RECEIVED LETTERS THREATENING HIM WITH BODILY HARM, IF HE PERSISTS IN CHALLENGING THE REGIME ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. KOHOUT HAS WRITTEN TO POLICE AUTHORITIES FOR PROTECTION AND HAS RECEIVED A REPLY INDICATING THAT THE POLICE CAN UNDERSTAND THE WRATH OF THE WORKERS OVER KOHOUT'S ALLEGED ANTI-STATE ACTIVITIES. KOHOUT HAS RECENTLY SENT COPIES OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE TO PRESIDENT HUSAK, STRESSING THE PARADOX OF CZECH POLICE ALIGNING THEMSELVES WITH PEOPLE WHO ENJOY USE OF NAZI SYMBOLS. KOHOUT REPORTEDLY INFORMED HUSAK IF ADEQUATE POLICE PROTECTION IS NOT GIVEN HIM AND HIS WIFE, HE WILL BRING THE

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ENTIRE AFFAIR TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WESTERN PRESS.

4. COMMENT: AS IS TRUE OF MUCH OF WHAT WE HAVE HEARD RECENTLY ABOUT CHARTER 77, PRECEDING CONTAINS SOME APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS. HAVEL HAS, OF COURSE, FORMERLY WITHDRAWN AS A CHARTER SPOKESMAN, AND THE ONLY REMAINING ONE, JIRI HAJEK, FINDS HIS ACTIVITIES LIMITED BUT NOT COMPLETELY BLOCKED BY HIS QUASI-HOUSE ARREST (WHICH, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, EXTENDS TO SECURITY AGENTS PITCHING A TENT IN FRONT OF HIS SUMMER HOUSE NEAR PRAGUE, SO THAT THEY CAN WATCH HIM IN RELATIVE COMFORT). STORIES ABOUT APPOINTMENT OF NEW SPOKESMEN HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR MONTHS, BUT NONE HAS YET APPEARED. ANOTHER SOURCE INSISTS THAT KRIEGL, RATHER THAN HAVEL, IS THE CURRENT SPRAKPLUG OF THE CHARTER. THERE IS CERTAINLY IRONY IN ATTEMPTS TO PAINT KOHOUT AS A NAZI, WHEN, EARLIER, PROPAGANDISTS SUGGESTED HE WAS A CRYPTO-JEW.

5. CERTAIN EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT CHARTER 77 AS A MOVEMENT HAS BECOME FRAGMENTED, ALTHOUGH THE COMMON PURPOSE REMAINS. CHARTER ADHERENTS WERE NEVER A HOMOGENEOUS GROUP AND REGIME PRESSURES AND THE IRRESISTIBLE INSTINCT THAT CAUSES CZECHS TO RUSTICATE IN THEIR CHATAS EACH SUMMER HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY ADDED CENTRIFUGAL PRESSURES. WE EXPECT THAT AT THE LEAST

A NEW DOCUMENT WILL BE ISSUED CONCURRENT WITH THE START OF BELGRADE. THE REGIME FOR ITS PART IS ALSO SURE TO BE READY TO RESPOND, PERHAPS BY GOING AHEAD WITH THE TRIAL OF HAVEL ET AL AND "PROVING" THEIR TIES WITH WESTERN ANTICOMMUNIST CIRCLES. THE RUMOR THAT HAS REACHED THE WESTERN PRESS THAT ORNEST HAS ALLOWED HIS "CONFESION" TO BE FILMED FOR EVENTUAL USE ON TV HAS AN AUTHENTIC RING; SUCH A FILM SHOULD STRIKE THE REGIME AS AN IDEAL MEANS OF DISCREDITING THE MOTIVES AND ACTIONS OF CHARTER SUPPORTERS.

FROWICK

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